

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

August 12, 1998

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF STATE
THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
THE SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION

SUBJECT: Implementation of the Administration's Global
Positioning System (GPS) Policy

The President's March 1996 Decision Directive on GPS management (PDD/NSTC-6) identifies the roles of your agencies in implementing the Administration's GPS policy. As your Departments begin to make preliminary decisions in the preparation of the FY-2000 budget request, we urge your continued commitment to implementing this policy. GPS is increasingly essential to national economic well being, science and public safety. Support for the sustainment of a reliable GPS constellation and for the modernization of essential GPS services is now more important than ever.

The Interagency GPS Executive Board (IGEB), co-chaired by the Departments of Defense and Transportation, has been working toward the fulfillment of the policy goals outlined in PDD/NSTC-6 and the Vice President's March 1998 announcement on additional civil signals. Over the coming months, the IGEB faces critical decisions that will set the GPS course for the next two decades. Stewardship of GPS in budget, policy and diplomatic measures by the Departments of State, Defense and Transportation must reflect the Administration's commitment to assuring that GPS remains the international navigation, positioning and timing standard for peaceful civil, commercial and scientific applications.

The IGEB appears to be at an impasse on several key issues, particularly those involving funding for GPS modernization. We believe that your personal attention will be needed to ensure that we overcome these obstacles. Your agencies' FY-2000 budget

submissions need to reflect funding sufficient to implement our stated commitments within outyear levels established in the President's FY 1999 budget.

We appreciate your continued direct support for the IGEB as it enters this critical stage, and look forward to working with you on GPS stewardship.

Samuel R. Berger
 Samuel R. Berger
 Assistant to the President
 for National Security Affairs

Jacob J. Lew
 Jacob J. Lew
 Director, Office of
 Management and Budget

Neal Lane
 Neal Lane
 Director, Office of
 Science and Technology Policy

cc:

The Secretary of Interior
 The Secretary of Agriculture
 The Secretary of Commerce
 Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff
 Administrator, National Aeronautics and Space Administration